

**Establishing An Environmental Remediation Reserve Account**

Referred to: The Energy and Environment Committee (Chairman Loughran and Legislators Richard Parete, Rodriguez, Ronk, and Wawro), and The Ways and Means Committee (Chairman Gerentine and Legislators Allen, Belfiglio, Briggs, Gregorius, Maio and Maloney, and Richard Parete)

Legislator John Parete offers the following:

WHEREAS, Ulster County is concerned about a number of active and abandoned parcels that are encumbered by the presence of known environmental contamination; and

WHEREAS, often these parcels get abandoned to taxes, forcing the county to either remediate the sites and/or to remove them from a taxable status and defer formal foreclosure, thereby placing these parcels into a non-taxable and non-responsible status; and

WHEREAS, remediation can prove to be an expensive proposition both fiscally and in terms of investment of staff time, and such costs are typically borne by the County in advance of any cost recovery; and

WHEREAS, there are other environmental initiatives that the Ulster County Legislature may choose to engage in with uncertain costs from time-to-time, such as the proposed pilot program for alternative fuel and greening of the Ulster County fleet; and

WHEREAS, historically, the County's tax sale of acquired properties has typically resulted in proceeds far greater than the budgeted benefit; now therefore be it

RESOLVED, that the proceeds of the tax sale for fiscal year 2015 beyond the budgeted revenue (\$675,000), not to exceed \$100,000, be placed into an environmental remediation reserve account by the Commissioner of Finance at the close of the fiscal year; and be it further

RESOLVED, that the Ulster County Legislature recommends to its current and future members that the surplus financial yield of this annual event, not to exceed \$100,000, be invested in this fund until such time as the Legislature determines funding to be adequate to address issues of concern on a timely and responsible basis, and moves its adoption.

**Resolution No. 42      April 21, 2015**

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ADOPTED BY THE FOLLOWING VOTE:

AYES:

NOES:

Postponed in Committee: Energy and Environment on February 4, 2015

Passed Committee: Energy and Environment on March 4, 2015

Passed Committee: Ways and Means as amended on March 17, 2015

Referred back to the Ways and Means Committee at Legislative Session on March 17, 2015

Passed Committee: Ways and Means on \_\_\_\_\_.

FINANCIAL IMPACT:

NONE